

# NEWS FROM

## Alabama Student Loan Program—KHEAA

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### Financial Aid Tip of the Month, August 2006

#### Free tips for finding money for college

If you're headed to college, following these tips from the Alabama Student Loan Program and The Student Loan People<sup>sm</sup> can give you the edge in the yearly race for scholarship dollars.

**Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as you can after January**

1. The FAFSA is used to apply for state and federal student aid. File online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

**Look for local scholarships in your newspaper.** Community organizations and businesses may have scholarships reserved for local students. You can contact the sponsors for more information.

**Check listings in *Affording Higher Education*.** This publication lists some 4,000 sources of student aid available to Alabama students.

**Talk with your guidance counselor,** who is an excellent resource and can tell you about financial aid in general and where to find it.

**Find out how to reduce student loan costs.** Most financial aid packages include student loans. Learn as much as you can about fees, discounts and loan forgiveness benefits offered by lenders so you get the best deal. You can find a comparison of the benefits offered by the major lenders in Alabama on [www.alstudentaid.com](http://www.alstudentaid.com) under "How to save \$ if you have to borrow."

**Visit websites** with free information about college, financial aid and careers. **AlabamaMentor.org** not only has information about financial aid programs but also provides a free scholarship search and much more.

**Apply, apply, apply.** The more financial aid for which you apply, the better your chances of getting enough to pay for college. Make sure you meet all deadlines.

For more information about financial aid and college planning, visit [www.AlabamaMentor.org](http://www.AlabamaMentor.org); write the Alabama Student Loan Program, 100 North Union Street, Suite 308, Montgomery, AL 36104-3761; or call 334-265-9720, toll free (800) 721-9720.